

IDW

#3 • \$4.99

ZÄHLER

LONG DISTANCE



LONG DISTANCE

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY THOM ZAHLER
EDITED BY DAVID HEDGECOCK

First, Carter flew out to Chicago to meet Lee. And then Lee returned the favor and flew to Columbus.

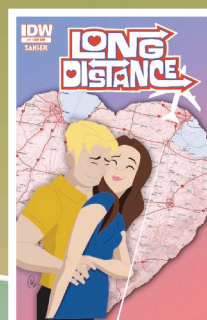
Unfortunately, they both overslept and now they're rushing to the airport. Again.



CHICAGO



REGULAR COVER
ART BY
THOMAS ZAHLER



SUBSCRIPTION COVER
ART BY
MIKE COLLINS

IDW[®]
www.IDWPUBLISHING.com
IDW Founded by Ted Adams, Alex Garner, Kris Oprisko, and Robbie Robbins

Ted Adams, CEO & Publisher
Greg Goldstein, President & COO
Robbie Robbins, EVP/Sr. Graphic Artist
Chris Ryall, Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
Alan Payne, VP of Sales
Dirk Wood, VP of Marketing
Lorelei Bunjes, VP of Digital Services
Jeff Webber, VP of Digital Publishing & Business Development

Facebook: facebook.com/idwpublishing
Twitter: [@idwpublishing](https://twitter.com/idwpublishing)
YouTube: youtube.com/idwpublishing
Tumblr: tumblr.idwpublishing.com
Instagram: instagram.com/idwpublishing



LONG DISTANCE #3. AUGUST 2015. FIRST PRINTING. LONG DISTANCE © 2015 Thomas F. Zahler. All rights reserved. © 2015 Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2785 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

"Her first trip out ended with a mad dash for the airport."

We made it!

It wasn't quite the NASCAR experience that you gave me last time, but Columbus is a little more civilized--

columbus

--and a little less populated.

We're artisanal.

Let me park and--

No, it makes sense, weirdy.

No, just drop me off.

Look, it's hard walking away from you. Here we've got the threat of TSA shooing you along to make sure I leave. It's silly but--

I love that you get me.

Next time, let's have less rushing and more of the other stuff.

Deal.

I'll text you when I get in!

ALL POINTS

FLIGHT

SMITH/O

DEP: 11:23am COLUMBUS
ARR: 11:35am CHICAGO

CM

LONG DISTANCE

by thom zahler

the next morning...



Carter, over here! I've already got your order.

Tim? What are you doing here?

@CarterTheArter
Early mornings can only be defeated by sugar-packed chocolatey coffee. It's a scientific fact.



A mocha and a cinnamon roll? For me?

Is it my birthday and no one told me?

I knew you'd stop in here this morning and so I'm apologizing for ruining your weekend using the universal apology currency of sugar and calories.

Our forefathers were wise to set up that system.



I hope you managed to still have a good time, though.

It's funny you mention that because--



--we totally had sex!

I thought you were taking it slow.

We were. But then we both thought we should go faster.

Okay, I think you're oversharing now.



Seriously, the timing seemed right. I think we both wanted to make the most of our limited time. So I guess thank you for limiting it so much?

Then you're welcome. Completely changing the subject--even if it doesn't sound like it--did she have a good time?



--I had a *fantastic* time.

Yes.

Wait, so you two *finally*--?

And it was...?

chicago



It was *good*.

Very good.

He's... *enthusiastic*.



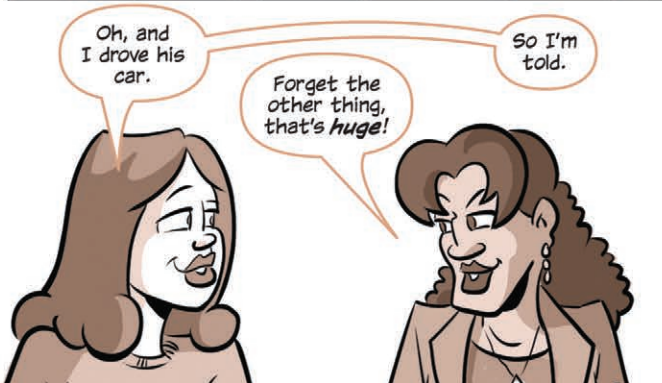
Him having to work most of the weekend was certainly *craptastic*. I do *not* want that to be a regular thing. But it was nice just mostly *hanging out* at his place.

It felt like the kind of low-key thing you'd do when you actually *live* in the *same state*.

Plus *sex*.



Well, yes. There *definitely* was that.



Oh, and I drove his car.

Forget the other thing, that's *huge*!

So I'm told.



We're not *just* here for guilt pastries, though, *are we?*

What? I really am sorry--

Oh, I *know* that. And I promise your *season of penance* will only last a *week, tops*.

But *no more pastries* after this. I'm newly concerned with what I look like with my *shirt off*.

Normally, though, you would buy my *afternoon coffee*. You *ambushed* me here this morning so we were *off-site* for whatever you wanted to say.



You're *very suspicious*, aren't you?

But I'm also *right*, too, aren't I?

Yes.

Look, this was *Monica's first big job* and it went south. *You* know what a hit that can be to the *delicate creative ego*.

We said we'd *never* talk about *Intermessage* again.



And we're *not*. We're talking about *her*. She didn't do *anything* wrong, but she's going to take it that way if we don't handle this right.

I could offer an *idea*, but you sound like you've *already* got a plan.

I *do*, but it involves *your* workload.



Oh, my God, I am *so sorry*. And I tanked your *entire weekend*, Carter. I know how much--

Monica, we can't say this strongly enough. It was *not* your fault.

And *trust me*, everything worked out.



Truman Electric, specifically *Duncan*, is a pain. But, right now, we have to keep him happy because he's *so much* of our business.

And to fix that, we need to make him *less* of our business so the next time he becomes a problem, we can *cut him loose*.

So we need *more work* and *new clients*.

So we want *you* to run point on finding and targeting new clients.

You know what we can do and what we're good at. You're good with clients, and, best of all, you know what we'd like to do *next*. So start researching and doing concept stuff. Carter's going to pick up some of your *day-to-day work*.

If I'd like? Oh my *goodness*, this is so *amazing*. I can't believe you're giving me this opportunity.

Thank you *so much*! I won't let you down.

We *know* you won't.

Also, *bonus points* if you score a client who will bring us food.



☐ So, a job goes bad on her and she gets rewarded? You guys are the best bosses ever.

☑ We kinda are. We've also needed to start going after new blood, and this was the kick in the complacency we needed to give someone that task.

☐ I wish I could work for you.



☑ Unfortunately, the skill set that launches people into orbit doesn't help for selling shoes and cars.

☐ Really? Think of how many more cars you could sell if you knew the specific resonant frequency of the metal in the car.

☑ Also, Dr. Clark is being very Dr. Clark. I am so ready to leave this guy.

☑ Sorry, dear.

☑ I'll bring up hiring a rocket scientist at the next staff meeting. Tim may see through my clever ruse, though. He's pretty smart.